

# ANNUAL REPORT

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

USCB LEADERSHIP	3
USCB MISSION STATEMENT	3
BJHEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
USCBEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS	5
A YEAR IN REVIEW	6
USCB Receives \$1 million NSF Development Award	7
\$5.1 Million Grant Education Grant Awarded to USCB	
USCB Student Joins OCEARCH's 45th Shark Research Expedition	9
USCB Turns Old School into New Cybersecurity Lab	9
Archaeology Project Advances at Barnwell Tabby Site on HHI	10
USCB TV Series Returns for National Distribution	
The Pen Wins First Place	
Interdisciplinary Symposium Explores the 1st South Carolina Volunteers	
Dick Stewart: A Driving Force for Higher Education	13
	15
STUDENT NEWS	16
SAND SHARK NEWS	
THE CHANCELLOR'S LIST	
ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETIES	
CUMMULATIVE GIVING SOCIETIES	28

## **USCB LEADERSHIP**

Al M. Panu, Ph.D. Chancellor

Eric Skipper, Ph.D. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Beth G. Patrick Vice Chancellor for Finance, Administration & IT

Angela D. Simmons, Ed.D. Vice Chancellor for Student Development

W. Mack Palmour Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

Quin Monahan Director of Athletics

## **USCB MISSION STATEMENT**

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) responds to regional needs, draws upon regional strengths, and prepares graduates to contribute locally, nationally, and internationally with its focus on teaching, research, and service. USCB is a public, comprehensive institution in the University of South Carolina system, offering associate and baccalaureate degrees in the liberal arts, the sciences, and professional disciplines and select master's degrees in response to regional demand through on-site and distance delivery methods. Serving a diverse population, USCB enriches the quality of life for students and area residents through artistic and cultural offerings; collaborations with regional, national, and international partners; and lifelong learning opportunities.

## BJHEC The Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission

H. Timberlake Pearce, M.D. Chair J. Simon Fraser, J.D., Vice Chair Jane S. Kiser, Secretary Jan Baxter Tricia L. Etheridge, M.D. Brenda Litchfield, Ph.D. Larry S. Rowland Emory Wayne Rushton Roberts (Tabor) Vaux, Jr. Al M. Panu, Ph.D., ex officio Beth G. Patrick, ex officio



## BJHEC The Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission

THE MISSION OF THE BEAUFORT-JASPER HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION is to support undertakings that improve higher education for Beaufort and Jasper County residents. Established and empowered by *Title 59, Chapter 56* of the *South Carolina Code*, the commission may enter into contracts, hold property, and carry debt. There are nine members – seven Beaufort county residents and two Jasper county residents – who are appointed to four-year terms by the governor.

## **USCBEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Justin Rice, Chair Senior Vice President, First Citizens Bank

Richard Stewart, Vice Chair Founder & CEO, 303 Associates, LLC

Steven Birdwell President, Sea Pines Resort

John Brinkley General Manager, Ford Motor Company (retired)

Joseph Fraser, III President, Fraser Construction

David Johnson, Jr. Partner, Speyside Partners

Kathleen Cullen Jordan Executive, Corporate Finance (retired) Robert Jordan, Jr. Partner, SERG Restaurant Group

Lloyd "Fig" Newton General United States Air Force, (retired)

Coleman Peterson President & CEO, Hollis Enterprises LLC

Cynthia Rolfe Owner, Lowcountry Fresh

Al M. Panu, Ph.D., ex officio Chancellor, USCB

Tim Daniels, ex officio Executive Director, USCBEF Asst. Vice Chancellor, USCB

## **USCB EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT EDUCATION FOUNDATION is to support the University of South Carolina Beaufort in all of its educational, instructional, scientific, literary, research, service, charitable, and outreach endeavors and to maximize private-sector opportunities and support, thereby, empowering the university to provide a margin of excellence beyond what is achievable with state, county, and municipal funds alone.

# USCB 2022-2023 **A YEAR IN REVIEW**



# USCB Receives \$1 million NSF Development Award



USCB's new NSF Regional Innovation Engine Development Award will focus on the maritime cybersecurity ecosystem tied to the Port of Charleston.

USCB is among more than 40 teams across the U.S. to receive one of the first-ever \$1 million National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines Development Awards.

USCB, with 12 partners, will use the grant funds to establish the Maritime Cyberse-

curity Institute, which will conduct research to understand vulnerabilities, interdependencies, and risks in the regional maritime ecosystem and develop technologies to enhance safety and security.

# **\$5.1 Million Grant Education Grant Awarded to USCB**



Beaufort County School District Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez (left) and Dr. Bruce Marlowe, Chair of USCB's Department of Education, are pictured here with Education majors (left to right) Jaire Brown, Kayla Townsend and Eugene McClaurin.

USCB has received a \$5.1 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Called MASTERY (Melding Academics, Support, and Training of Educators for higher Retention Yields), this grant project will expand USCB's recruitment, preparation, and support of highly qualified, diverse teacher candidates to serve in 21 high-need schools in the Beaufort County School District (BCSD). Aligned with local community needs, MASTERY will focus on developing teacher candidates in the critical shortage areas of early childhood education, gifted and talented education, middle and high school math and science, special education, and English as a Second Language. The grant also will provide teacher candidates and working teachers with university-based and district-level support.

## USCB Student Joins OCEARCH's 45<sup>th</sup> Shark Research Expedition

If scientists ever develop medical uses for the bacteria found on sharks, USCB student Liza Jones will be able to say she helped them do it.



Working with Dr. Kim Ritchie, associate professor of Genetics and Prokaryotic Cell Biology, Jones is studying the beneficial bacteria that live on the skin, gums and other areas of great white sharks. In summer 2023, she was an invited guest researcher on the 45th expedition of OCEARCH, a data-centric organization that tags and tracks sharks, whales and turtles globally. Jones joined a team of scientists from many academic institutions on a 10-day leg of an expedition off the coast of North Carolina, near the Outer Banks.

## **Read more here**

# USCB Turns Old School into New Cybersecurity Lab

Filled with computer workstations, large screen monitors, and racks of high tech equipment, the former Bridges Preparatory School in Beaufort was reborn in 2023 as USCB's latest cyber classroom. The transformation was made possible by a \$1.3 million grant U.S. Department of Defense to train students on how to prevent cyberattacks.



## **USCB TV Series Returns for National Distribution**

By the River, the half-hour Southern literature series produced and directed by USCB, returned for a nationally distributed second season in 2023. Hosted by Holly Jackson, the weekly series presents indepth interviews with Southern authors, exploring unexpected stories and writers. The program airs on South Carolina Educational Television and is distributed nationally by American Public Television.

The 13-episode series is produced and directed by Dr. Caroline E. Sawyer, associate professor of Communication Studies, with a crew of USCB students.



Producer and Director of By the River Dr. Caroline E. Sawyer and By The River host Holly Jackson.

#### Read more here

## Archaeology Project Advances at Barnwell Tabby Site on HHI

Excavating an archaeological site is always an exciting adventure, but when the project is part of a university course and unearths previously unknown aspects of an area's history, it is even more thrilling. This was the case for students Dr. Kim Cavanagh's Principles of Archaeology class (ANTH-B319) when they partnered with Thomas Barnwell for the Barnwell Tabby Excavation Project on Hilton Head Island. The other members of the Barnwell Tabby Excavation Project are Dr. Audrey Dawson, anthropology adjunct, and Dr. Eric Plaag of Carolina Historical Consulting. Cavanagh is an associate professor of Anthropology.



Dr. Cavanagh leading students Parker Vaughan and Erin Andrews at the Barnwell Tabby dig after the Savannah River Archaeological researchers came to view the site.

## The Pen Wins First Place

The Pen, USCB's student-led creative writing and art magazine, earned the First-Place award from American Scholastic Press Association for the fifth time. Published each semester by the Society of Creative Writers, *The Pen* was recognized for its excellence in content, organization, design, presentation, and creativity.

The award was for *The Flight Issue*, published in Spring 2022. Editors Selena Menjivar, Sophia McKeehan, Mackenzie Ware, Robert-Nickell Bilgen, Patti Teter, and Samantha Derenthal produced the issue. USCB students from all majors contributed artwork, poetry, and prose for consideration for publication. Dr. Ellen Malphrus, professor of English and writer in residence, serves as the faculty advisor.



The Pen Spring 2022 "The Blue Issue"



## Interdisciplinary Symposium Explores the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Volunteers



AMIKids Beaufort learned about the First South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent and created interpretative artwork. Their artwork was displayed at the USCB Center for the Arts art project.

New historical research, community advocacy and art commemorating the contributions of African American soldiers in the Civil War came to life in "Breathing Democracy into Spaces: 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent." The symposium, held on April 8 at the Center for the Arts in Beaufort, was the culmination of a year-long grant project centered at the Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era.

The symposium focused on the importance of the first volunteers of African descent who served in the military in South Carolina during the Civil War, the role of abolitionist and Union Major General David Hunter (1802-1886), and The Militia Act of 1862, which allowed men of color to serve under arms. Their contributions played a huge role in jump-starting the Reconstruction Era in the South

Faculty and graduate students worked closely with undergraduate, middle and high school students on archival research and collecting oral histories and other materials about the 1st South Carolina Volunteers. Documenting the history of African American soldiers serving in the US Armed Forces strengthened partner organizations and community efforts to preserve this history, while empowering students who presented their work in a variety of mediums.

# **A Driving Force for Higher Education**

Dick Stewart believes in the far-reaching impact of higher education.

"My wife and I are both first generation college students," he explains. "Like many people in our age group, we found that the experience of a four-year college campus was life changing. It informed us about ourselves and the world we occupied in ways that other things did not, and it provided opportunities and experiences for us that we think more people would benefit from having."



Dick Stewart

This is why Stewart was a driving

force behind the expansion of USCB degree programs and why he has been a steadfast supporter of the university for more than 20 years.

Stewart's leadership role in USCB's story reaches back to when he and his wife, Sharon, moved to Beaufort County in 1998 after a successful business career in the Atlanta area.

"To protect the cultural, environmental, and historic characteristics of this community, we had to have a high quality, comprehensive university. We were the fastest growing area and the only area without a four-year degree granting university." Stewart said.

For inspiration, he turned to the past and historic Beaufort College, which was founded by the county's leading citizens in 1795 and thrived until the Civil War. So, Stewart formed Citizens for a Four-Year University with Courtney Worrell, a colleague at the property development firm he established in Beaufort.

"If we were going to have the kind of university and the kind of impact on this community that a university should have, it needed to be supported and funded by the local community and citizens who care about higher education," Stewart said.

Stewart began working with former chancellor

Dr. Jane Upshaw on grassroot forums discuss the potential new university. This eventually led to legislative, community, county government and other local support — much like the founding of Beaufort College 200 years earlier.

One public forum stands out in Stewart's memory. It was held at the **Center for Fine Arts** on the Beaufort campus. Onstage were a dozen dignitaries, including county council members,

the commanding officer of the Marine Corps Air Station, school district leaders, and the area's state legislators. In the audience was a full house of over 350 community members. The question put to them was "Do we need a fouryear university in Beaufort County?"

According to Stewart, the answer from everyone on stage was a resounding "Yes" and the audience was murmuring support.

"When they each expressed their support for the new university degrees, which was an incredibly satisfying and exciting moment to see," Stewart recalls. "Seeing the unanimity of support from the community, the elected leadership and our largest employers for USCB was a moment of joy!"

The effort culminated in 2004 when USCB officially opened its doors as a comprehensive, four-year institution. But Stewart's backing of the university had only just begun.

Over the past 20 years, his unceasing leadership support has helped ensure that USCB thrives as an educational, cultural, and economic cornerstone of the region.

"This area has many things that are unique. Those things can inform the world and USCB Is the vehicle through which those things are best understood, can be protected, and can provide the focus of those activities and lessons that will benefit the world," he said.

Stewart lists three distinct Lowcountry examples: Reconstruction, salt marshes, and Gullah Geechee culture.

"The **Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era** is a part of USCB, and wouldn't be here without it," he said.

He points out that wars around the world are followed by periods of reconstruction and USCB is well-positioned to research and educate what has worked and what has not worked in reconstruction efforts.

Examples include the Mather School for daughters of formerly enslaved people which informs how educating women can change the lives and futures of families. Also, the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park has sites throughout the area.

"We have 150-plus years of measurable results of some form of reconstruction, and what that has meant to the community and to those individuals and families who are descendants of freed slaves."

As for salt marshes, they abound in the region. "Beaufort and Jasper counties have over 200,000 acres of salt marsh that protects us from storms and wave action, and they also sequester one ton of carbon per acre each year," Stewart said. "That's four million pounds of carbon each year that reduces global warming."

As a result, Stewart says, USCB is positioned to be a world leader in researching the many benefits of salt marsh environments and, with **Pritchards Island**, to lead study of coastal barrier islands.

Another feature of the Lowcountry, the Gullah Geechee culture, originated among enslaved people and continues today. The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is headquartered just blocks from USCB's Beaufort Campus. Stewart says USCB can play an important role in the appreciation, preservation, and study of the Gullah Geechee culture and provide an opportunity for the world to understand more about multiculturalism and its economic benefits.

"Gullah Geechee is as important as any other culture out there and understanding that teaches us about assimilating people and our shared history," he said.

For these reasons and more, investing in USCB is a long-term proposition for Stewart.

"As a part of our family's civic focus and philanthropic interest, USCB is expected to remain a priority for us because of the changes it is bringing to the lives and economic activity in the area while protecting those things that make this place special," he said.

## The 1795 Scholarships

One of the many ways Dick Stewart has helped and encouraged USCB students is by establishing the 1795 Beaufort Housing Scholarship. 1795 recognizes the founding date of USCB's predecessor institution, Beaufort College

The scholarship specifically awards \$1000 to eligible USCB students to live in the Beaufort Campus residence halls. It was established in 2019.

In 2023, Stewart established the 1795 Bluffton Housing Scholarship. It offers \$2000 to eligible students to live on the university's Bluffton campus.

The purpose of both scholarships is to increase USCB's enrollment and help students with their expenses. Approximately 50% of USCB's students live on campus.

USCB's residence halls are ranked 11th best in the nation by Niche.

# FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Mercer R. Brugler**, associate professor of Marine Biology, has been awarded a science/research voting seat on the advisory council for the proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is seeking to designate this new national marine sanctuary off the coasts of New York and New Jersey.

**Dr. Ellen Malphrus**, professor of English and writer in residence, is the 2023 recipient of the Carolina Trustees Professorship Award, in recognition of her outstanding work as an educator, author, and scholar. Each year, faculty from USC Columbia and one system institution receive this award for service to their disciplines, peers, students, and communities. This is the fourth year in a row that USCB has won the Carolina Trustees Professorship for System Campuses.

English professor **Dr**. **Mollie Barnes** won a summer stipend grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the research and writing of her book *Paper Heroines: How Women Reformers Wrote One Another's Lives in the Sea Islands, 1838-1902.* The focus of her book is on how women reformers in the Sea Islands of South Carolina historicized their peers in journals, diaries, biographies, and other forms of life writing.

Song lyrics can tell us about important moments in history, and **Dr**. **Erin McCoy's** new book is full of these and other cultural markers from the Viet Nam War era. A War Tour of Viet Nam (McFarland & Company, 2021) is based on McCoy's extensive first-hand research conducted in areas affected by the armed conflict. She is an associate professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Dr**. **Eric Montie** and his dolphin research are featured in a video produced by the Port Royal Sound Foundation. In the video, Montie explains his work, why he loves it, and why his research is important. Viewers accompany Montie and his lab assistant, student Alyssa Marian, on a dolphin survey trip on the May River in Bluffton, SC.



# STUDENT NEWS

#### **Dunbar Selected Newman Civic Fellow**

Shermica Dunbar, a junior majoring in Human Services, is the USCB's newest Newman Civic Fellow. The award is from Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities working to advance the public purposes of higher education. This group named 173 student leaders nationally in its 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellows.

#### Three Students Accepted to McNair Scholars Program

Students Sierra Brown, Andrea Santibanez, and Rose Van Etten were selected Ronald E. McNair Scholars by the University of South Carolina. The program offers expanded faculty mentoring, research experience, and other academic opportunities. Its goal is to increase the number of PhD recipients who are first-generation students, Pell Grant eligible, or from underrepresented groups in graduate education. Participants in the program are recognized nationally as high-achieving scholars and are actively recruited by graduate programs.

#### Best Buddies Wins International College Chapter of the Year

USCB's Best Buddies student organization was recognized by Best Buddies International as the College Chapter of the Year for 2022-23. The chapter has more than 60 members including students and individuals in the community with special needs. They host events on and off campus at least twice a month, volunteer in the community, and take part in many campus activities.

#### **Stephens Selected for Prestigious Writers' Workshop**

Edra Stephens is the first USCB student to be selected as a manuscript fellow at the prestigious writer's retreat known as the "The Watering Hole."

An English major, Gullah poet and novelist, Stephens will join the tenth annual retreat of The Watering Hole, "a southern-based vanguard who builds Harlem Renaissance-style spaces in the contemporary South."

#### Peach Wins Student Emmy

USCB alumna, video producer and soccer player Sophia Peach won the university's first Southeast Emmy Student Production Award for Live Sporting Event/Game. The Emmy encourages the pursuit of excellence in video production and focuses public attention on outstanding achievements produced by students.

Peach's winning entry was a Sand Shark softball game, produced with player graphics, packages, and different camera angles — common techniques in coverage of men's sports to make games more exciting — to illustrate equitable media coverage at the collegiate level.

# SAND SHARK NEWS



## **USC Beaufort Approved for NCAA Division II Membership**

The USC Beaufort Department of Athletics received exciting news on July 14, 2022: provisional acceptance into the NCAA Division II as a member of the Peach Belt Conference. The plan of USCB moving into the NCAA has been in the works for several years. Achieving full NCAA Division II membership typically takes three years, provided

the athletic department successfully completes each phase of the mem-

bership process. The NCAA committee reviews each school in the process annually to determine Division II if the institution should repeat any year or advance to the next year in the process.

## USCB Hires Men's and Women's Basketball Head Coaches

USCB hired its founding men's and women's basketball head coaches, both of whom have achieved great success in their careers. The teams will begin competing in November 2023 in the Peach Belt Conference.

Purdue University legend Sharon Versyp is USCB's new Women's Basketball Head Coach and Ron Fudala is the new Men's Basketball Head Coach.

Fudala was the Associate Head Coach for the Crimson Hawks at Indiana University Pennsylvania for the last four seasons. He helped lead the Crimson Hawks to 91 victories, three PSAC tournament and regular season division crowns, three straight No. 1 seeds for the NCAA Atlantic Region Championship, and a trip to the 2022 Division II Elite Eight and the national semifinals.

Versyp is Purdue's all-time winningest head coach and led the Boilermakers to four Big Ten Tournament championships and two NCAA Tournament Elite Eight appearances in 15 years. She retired from Purdue in 2021.

## Peach Belt to Allow USCB to

#### **Compete for Conference Titles**

The Peach Belt Conference Board of Directors voted to allow provisional members to compete in all PBC Championship events. Starting fall 2023, USCB teams will be able to compete for league titles in baseball, men's and women's basketball, women's and men's golf, women's and men's outdoor track and field, women's soccer, and softball. Previously, the conference had not allowed schools transitioning to Division II to compete for any league tournament that awarded an NCAA automatic bid.



# THE CHANCELLOR'S LIST



# ANNUAL GIVING

## \$25,000+

Anonymous (II) Higher Education Trust, Inc. Hilton Head Hospital Auxilary Port Royal Sound Foundation Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Inc. Heritage Classic Foundation

## \$10,000-\$24,999

MVW & Affiliated Companies Anonymous Mr. and Mrs. John Myers Schwab Charitable Fund Burr Forman McNair Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Dan DeMuth College of Beaufort Trustees Fidelity Charitable Mr. and Mrs. James R. Jordan Vortex Foundation Newcastle Foundation Trust Mr. Robert Jordan Jr.

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mr. Colden R. Battey Jr. and Ms. Patricia B. Battey Montage Hotels & Resorts, LLC Hilton Head Island Wine and Food Festival Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc. Mr. Arthur F. Levin and Ms. Eleanor D. Levin Ms. Walda C. Wildman Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Olivetti Prof. James F. Flanagan and Ms. Katherine Wells Ms. Dorothy B. Davis Robin and Sandy Stuart Foundation Mr. Randal Thompson Ms. Margaret Williams



# ANNUAL GIVING

## \$1,000-\$4,999

Ms. Emily R. Hart IDI Consulting LLC Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Alexander Mr. John Folts and Ms. Cynthia Warrick Ms. Bailey W. Symington Mr. and Mrs. W. Wallace McDowell Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Harden Liollio Architecture, LLC Mr. and Mrs. Wayne C. Reynolds Mr. Joseph W. Rutter Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Francis Mr. and Mrs. Barry D. Muffley Mr. and Mrs. J. A Scallan Ms. Claudia Carucci Ward Edwards Engineering Ms. Karen Benson Mr. John Allbritton Mr. Ted Bruno Ms. Karen Peluso Mr. and Mrs. Howell Beach Mr. and Mrs. James S. Gibson Jr. Mr. Robert J. Moore Kelly Tours Experiment Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Mather Jr. S-2 International, LLC Mr. and Mrs. David C. House Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Childs Ms. Karin E. McCormick Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Childs Mr. Stephen P. Hughes Beaufort Water Festival, Inc. Mr. Robert E. Brede Hilton Head Brewing Co. Ms. Susan Hussey United Community Bank Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Kinghorn

(continued on next page)

# ANNUAL GIVING

## \$1,000-\$4,999

Walters Family Foundation Ms. Clara Menuhin-Hauser The National Christian Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Pat F. McGarity Mr. and Mrs. William R. Barrett Jr. Dr. Elizabeth L. Johnson Mr. Russell L. Jeter Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Fryer Mr. and Mrs. John R. Perrill Ms. Lila N. Meeks Beaufort Memorial Hospital The Dayton Foundation Magnolia Plantation Foundation Mrs. Cheryl A. Steele Mr. and Mrs. David E. Murray Mr. Robert J. Hochstetler and Dr. Jill Kammermeyer Olivetti, McCray & Withrow, LLC First Citizens Bank & Trust Company Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Kilcollin Dan and Merrie Boone Foundation Ms. Sandra C. Shuster Mr. Chad Tober Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Weisz Mr. Geoffrey Hargadon Mr. Jordan M. Brown and Ms. Esther Harnett Mrs. Susan Silliman Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Muffley Mrs. Marjory Horne Ms. Sue Holder Price Ms. Sheryl Acheson Ms. Theresa Kix Mrs. Patricia Young Mr. Karl Zinsmeister Ms. Erin D. Jorgensen Kelly G. Depaulo



# THANK YOU

